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PATENT APPLICATION
Serial No. 09/776,788**REMARKS**

Claims 70-137 are pending in the captioned Application in which claims 1-69 are cancelled hereby without prejudice to their being again presented in the present Application or in another application, and in which claims 70-137 are newly added.

The specification is amended at page 22-23 to correct a typographical error for consistency with the remainder of the sentence.

Objections:

The objection to claim 68 to because it has a "typo" is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 68.

Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 37.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 1-5, 7-17, 20-28, 30-36, 41, 45-59 and 65-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,609,659 to Sehr.

The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-5, 7-17, 20-28, 30-36, 41, 45-59 and 65-69, however, the Sehr reference is discussed below.

Sehr relates to a passport system and methods using multi-application passport cards in which the passport devices may be smart cards, pocket computers and the like, that can manipulate and exchange data between and among the passport devices and remote databases. The passport cards of Sehr are intended to be used for a panoply of purposes, i.e. as a passport, and so contain personal information, passport information, airline information, railroad information, ship information and other information, and also contain payment

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information whereby the passport may be utilized for transportation, identification, card-based payment (e.g., as a credit card), and for other travel-related applications. (Figure 3; column 2, lines 46-57, column 13, line 43 to column 22, line 67).

The passport card or passenger card of Sehr is a credit card in that payment can be made with it for goods and services purchased. (Column 2, lines 52-55, column 3, lines 26-30, column 3, line 63 to column 4, line 6, column 16, line 5 to column 18, line 5, column 21, lines 34-54). Thus it is not an access card as claimed.

Sehr does not appear to mention a hotel or registration. Sehr does not describe or suggest a self-registration for a premises, wherein an access card that is not a credit card is coded and dispensed for providing access to defined locations for defined dates and/or times.

Further, a key feature of Sehr is a specific database scheme that automatically interchanges data elements between and among all of a plurality of databases and the passport card so that each has the same complete, consistent and up to date information stored therein. (Column 2, lines 1-10, column 3, lines 10-15, column 5, lines 18-54 (esp. lines 35-46), column 25, lines 63-67). Such feature is not a requirement for Applicant's claimed arrangement.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 6, 18, 19, 44 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of US 6,101,477 to Hohle et al. The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 6, 18, 19, 44 and 64, however, the Hohle et al reference is discussed below. Sehr is discussed above.

Hohle et al relates to methods and apparatus for a travel-related multifunction smart card wherein various applications (software) are useful in travel, airline, hotel, rental car, and payment-related applications. Hohle et al appears to be concerned with file structures for smart cards for interoperability with software of various "partner" organizations such as airlines, hotels, rental car companies, credit card companies, etc. A hotel application is described at column 18, line 35 to column 21, line 42.

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Claims 29, 31, 37-40, 42-43 and 60-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr in view of US 5,204,663 to Lee. The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 29, 31, 37-40, 42-43 and 60-63, however, the Lee reference is discussed below. Sehr is discussed above.

Lee relates to a smart card access control system in which an integrated circuit key card is employed in conjunction with an acceptor that stores lock access information and that includes a card reader. Key and lock access information is compared for providing or denying access to a controlled area, and transactional information from the lock is stored in the key card. Several different key cards, e.g., administrative, services and customer, having different access rights are described, e.g., for use in a hotel or other facility.

Lee describes an access control device and not a self registration apparatus and method, and so does not supply what the other references lack.

It is submitted that neither Hohle et al nor Lee provides or suggests the features of Applicant's claimed arrangement and method that are lacking in Sehr.

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are moot and should be withdrawn.

Newly Added Claims 70-137:

Support for newly added claims 70-137 is found, for example, in original claims 1-69. Additional support is found, for example, in Figures 1 and 7, in Figures 4 and 4A, and in the specification at page 4, lines 8-14, at page 5, line 1 to page 6, line 29, at page 8, line 1 to page 9, line 13, at page 10, lines 3-15, at page 11, line 2 to page 13, line 27, at page 23, lines 8-28, and at page 25, line 18 to page 28, line 8.

Applicants' claim 70 is patentable at least because it recites:

"a user interface including a display for displaying registration information relating to locations of the premises and a data entry for entering user information, said user interface being operably coupled to said processor for coupling the registration information and the user information therebetween for self-registering a user,

"wherein a completed self registration defines one or more locations of the premises and defines dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations, and

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"wherein said processor provides access information representative of the one or more locations and of the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations defined by the completed self registration;

"a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

"a card issuing device for providing at least one of the access cards for each self registration, said card issuing device comprising:

"a card writer being operably coupled to said processor for storing the access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the defined locations of the premises;

"wherein the access information stored in the card memory of the access card defines the one or more locations of the premises and defines the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

"a card dispenser for dispensing the at least one access card having stored in the card memory thereof the access information defining the one or more locations of the premises and defining the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration."

which is not described or suggested by Sehr and/or Hohle et al and/or Lee and/or the other references of record.

Applicants' claim 83 is patentable at least because it recites:

"a user interface including a display for displaying registration information relating to locations of the premises and a data entry for entering user information, said user interface being operably coupled to said processor for coupling the registration information and the user information therebetween for self-registering a user,

"wherein a completed self registration defines one or more locations of the premises and defines dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations, and

"wherein said processor provides access information representative of the one or more locations and of the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations defined by the completed self registration;

"means coupled to said processor and responsive to a credit card for effecting credit verification, credit authorization, billing, payment, or a combination thereof, for the self registration;

"a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

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"a card issuing device for providing at least one of the access cards for each self registration, said card issuing device comprising:

"a card writer being operably coupled to said processor for storing the access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the defined locations of the premises;

"wherein the access information stored in the card memory of the access card defines the one or more locations of the premises and defines the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

"a card dispenser for dispensing the at least one access card having stored in the card memory thereof the access information defining the one or more locations of the premises and defining the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

"a plurality of access devices each including a reader for reading access information stored in the access card for enabling access to a respective location of the premises responsive to the access information stored in the card memory of the access card,"

which is not described or suggested by Sehr and/or Hohle et al and/or Lee and/or the other references of record.

Further, Applicants' claim 103 is patentable at least because it recites:

"a property management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for processing registrations for the premises;

"a user interface operably coupled to said at least one processor and said property management system for self registering a user in relation to at least a given one of the spaces of the premises, wherein said property management system provides registration information related to each self registration;

"a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access parameters therein, but not having access parameters pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

"a plurality of electronic access devices, wherein each access device is associated with one of the spaces of the premises for enabling access to that one of the spaces of the premises responsive to access parameters stored in the card memory of an access card;

"an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access parameters for said plurality of electronic access devices, wherein the access parameters define a given one or more of the spaces;

"a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor for storing registration information from said property management system and access

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parameters from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card of the supply of access cards,

"said card issuing device including a dispenser for providing the given access card in response to registering a user for the given space, the given access card having the registration information and the access parameters for a given self registration stored in the card memory thereof for enabling one or more of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given space, to one or more others of the spaces, or both; and

"a personnel management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining worker information relating to at least one worker associated with the premises, wherein said card issuing device issues an access card from said supply of access cards, the access card comprising a worker access card having worker information relating to a given worker of the at least one worker and access parameters for spaces of the premises stored in the card memory thereof,"

which is not described or suggested by Sehr and/or Hohle et al and/or Lee and/or the other references of record.

Further, Applicants' claim 114 is patentable at least because it recites:

"providing a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

"providing a plurality of electronic access devices each operable responsive to an access card having certain access information stored in a card memory thereof to provide access to a facility or facilities;

"receiving and displaying registration information using the user terminal;

"allowing the user to use the user terminal to enter and optionally to change registration information;

"allowing the user to use the user terminal to select the facility or facilities to which the user is to have access;

"wherein the received registration information, the changed registration information, or both, and the selected facility or facilities comprise a self registration;

"receiving credit card information for effecting billing, payment, or other credit transaction relating to the self registration;

"whereby a user can self register for a selected facility or facilities using the user terminal without intervention of personnel of the facility or facilities;

"storing information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into a computer;

"processing the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities by the computer for providing certain access information representative thereof;

"storing the certain access information representative of the registration

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information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the card memory of the access card; and

“providing the access card having the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the card memory thereof,”

which is not described or suggested by Sehr and/or Hohle et al and/or Lee and/or the other references of record.

Further, Applicants' claim 122 is patentable at least because it recites:

“a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

“a plurality of electronic access devices each adapted for enabling access to one of the spaces of the premises responsive to access information stored in the card memory of an access card;

“an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access information for each of said plurality of electronic access devices;

“a user interface for self registering a user without intervention from personnel of the premises, said user interface being operably coupled to said at least one processor and to said property management system for receiving registration information relating to a given one or ones of the spaces of the premises for the self registering a user in relation to the given one or ones of the spaces of the premises;

“a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor comprising:

“means for storing registration information from said user interface and access information from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card, and

“means for issuing the given access card in response to self registering a user, the given access card enabling at least one of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given one or ones of the spaces of the premises; and

“at least one time clock station including a clock for providing time information, wherein said time clock station is responsive to the given access card for recording registration information read from the given access card and time information relating thereto,”

which is not described or suggested by Sehr and/or Hohle et al and/or Lee and/or the other references of record.

Finally, Applicants' claim 132 is patentable at least because it recites:

“means for causing the computer to receive and display registration information on a user terminal;

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"means for causing the computer to allow the user to use the user terminal to enter and optionally to change the registration information;

"means for causing the computer to allow the user to use the user terminal to select a facility or facilities to which the user is to have access;

"means for causing the computer to store information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the computer;

"wherein the received registration information, the changed registration information, or both, and the selected facility or facilities comprise a self registration;

"means for causing the computer to receive credit card information for effecting billing, payment, or other credit transaction relating to the self registration;

"whereby a user can self register for a selected facility or facilities using the user terminal without intervention of personnel of the facility or facilities;

"means for causing the computer to store certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the card memory of an access card in a format for operating one or more electronic access devices associated with the selected facility or facilities,

"wherein the access card does not have access information pre-stored therein, and wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

"means for causing the computer to provide the access card with the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the card memory thereof,"

which is not described or suggested by Sehr and/or Hohle et al and/or Lee and/or the other references of record.

Claims 71-82, 84-102, 104-113, 115-121, 123-131 and 133-137 are patentable at least because they depend from one of patentable claims 70, 83, 103, 114, 122 and 132.

Accordingly, claims 70-137 are patentable and their allowance is solicited.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant cites the items listed on Form PTO-1449 submitted herewith and encloses a copy of each such item that is not a U.S. Patent or a U.S. Patent Publication. An authorization to charge a Deposit Account below includes the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee therefor as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the citations made in the Supplemental

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Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith, make same of record in the captioned Application, and provide an initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the Application including claims 70-137 be allowed and passed to issuance.

Please charge the \$180.00 fee for submitting a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with this timely-filled response to Deposit Account 04-1406 of Dann, Dorfman, Herrell & Skillman. A Fee Transmittal sheet is submitted herewith. The number of claims remaining being the same as or less than the number previously paid for, no fee is due therefor in consequence of this timely filed response. Should any other or additional fee be due in consequence of this Response, please charge such fee and deposit any refund to Deposit Account 04-1406 of Dann, Dorfman, Herrell & Skillman.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney if there is any question or if prosecution of this Application could be furthered by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 

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